Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 20, Number 11 December 2003

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Shalom

by
Rev. Pam Russell
Pastor at Prince of Peace in Shoreline and Project Director of Shalom International Ministry

On November 9 Prince of Peace in Shoreline began a new outreach ministry called Shalom International Ministry and installed Yoseph Petros as pastoral intern and outreach minister .

Shalom International Ministry is a partnership of several Lutheran congregations–Trinity, Lynnwood; Sammamish Hills, Sammamish; Lord of Life, Renton; Prince of Peace; and we hope, several others. Working together the congregations will help Yoseph Petros, an Ethiopian immigrant, try to launch an English-language Christian fellowship among Africans from several nations.

Shalom is an unusual concept. As Pastor Dick Wendt, St. Peter by the Sea in Edmonds, pointed out, although Petros' emphasis is to reach out to Africans, this is a multi-cultural venture, because he is attempting to reach out to people of several languages, cultures and nations–people who share the common experience of emigrating, specifically from Africa. His vision is to unite people who know far too much of conflict and political and cultic

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Synod News and Information

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Shalom

rivalries, through faith in Christ, a respect for diversity, and an agreement upon one language for worship.

Petros is pursuing ordination through the TEEM program of the ELCA–that is, Theological Education for Emerging Ministries. When the person studying through TEEM graduates, there is supposed to be a community waiting in which they will serve. As a coalition of churches, we're not exactly sure what the ELCA is thinking here, or how this is supposed to work. But we believe in Yoseph's vision, and in his gifts for ministry, and we're assembling gifts and grants from our congregations to try to support Yoseph, his education, and his outreach.

Prince of Peace has agreed to provide Yoseph with office and worship space, the experience of serving as a pastoral intern, and as much support as the congregation can provide for his outreach efforts.

Needed—Names For Synod Council

At the 2004 Synod Assembly (May 14-15 at St. Matthew's in Renton) voting members will be electing several Synod Council members to fill four-year terms. Nominations are needed for positions in all categories: clergy, laity, associate in ministry/deaconess/diaconal minister, male, female, persons of color or primary language other than English. We are also seeking nominations from all geographic areas of the synod. **Nomination deadline is Feb. 20.**

As you fill positions on your own Church Council, please forward the names of qualified persons whom you identify to the Nominating Committee Chair, Carol Warren at carolmwarren@comcast.net, or submit the nomination form enclosed in this issue of *Soundings*. The form is also available on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org, click on 2004 Synod Assembly. Members of the Synod Nominating Committee are available to discuss the positions needing nominations at your church in a temple talk or council meeting. Contact Carol Warren.

Deadline

Reminder: Deadline for the return of the budget requests from Synod boards, committees and task forces is November 30. If you have any questions contact Dan Bormann, Synod Finance Committee Chair, at 425-739-4732

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see–I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12

A Word From The Bishop,

Rev. Wm Chris Boerger

This is just what we needed to hear. We have heard it so often. We can easily not hear the good news. Bishop Hanson has challenged us to find words that speak the gospel without using that code word. How do we hear that this is Good News?

Do not be afraid! As we live in this time of increased anxiety, this can be just the news we need to hear. Don't be afraid of wars and rumors of wars. Don't be afraid of signs in sun and sky. Don't be afraid of the threats to life that come from illness and the stresses of daily life. Don't be afraid of stock market and mutual fund. Do not be afraid.

That is a whole lot easier to say than to live. It is a test of our faith to say to the anxious times in which we live that God has and is acting to bring shalom, peace into this world and into our lives. Is the baptismal promise sufficient for life in the twenty-first century?

I am still amazed to remember that these angelic words were first given to shepherds. They came to those who had been told by theology and experience that they were not permitted to share in God's shalom. They might be the vocational descendants of David, living outside David's town, but they were not people to whom God was expected to speak or for whom God was expected to act. Yet this familiar word comes to them.

This word also comes to us. Our problem may well be that we don't hear the unexpected promise. We live with a sense of entitlement that gets in the way of the surprise and wonder of the news. God's promise of peace was unbelievable to that band of outcasts watching the sheep. So they went looking and found this promised peace in a very unexpected place and person. In this baby the world is changed and we are changed.

Peace be with you this Advent. Hear the word of God for you, "Do not be afraid". The child was found and has found us. In this child we know God and God's shalom for the whole creation.

Report Released by LARC Dialogue Group

by Rocky Piro, Chair, Synod Ecumenical Commission

After two years of study, reflection and discussion, a dialogue group of Lutherans, Episcopalians and Roman Catholics has released a report addressing challenges and opportunities for mission and witness here in Western Washington. The group known by the acronym LARC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic) was established in 2000 by the ELCA bishops of the Northwest and Southwestern Washington Synods, the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle.

The dialogue team initially focused its studies on a document titled "The Gift of Authority," the summary statement of the Anglican/ Roman Catholic International Committee. The group then worked with official statements on authority developed through national and international dialogues in which our three traditions have been involved. The discussions broadened to consider topics related to ecclesiology, forms of ministry, and the mission of the Church in contemporary society. Earlier this year the group released a report and series of recommendations for consideration by the bishops and their synods and dioceses in the on-going work of mission and service to people of God in Western Washington.

The recommendations in the report include proposals for increased interaction among the bishops, clergy, synod and diocesan staff and the laity. The recommendations advance both informal and formal actions, including opportunities for study, joint consultation, and common commitment to witness and service. Later this fall, the dialogue group plans to release a study guide to assist congregations and individuals interested in reviewing the topic of authority and exploring the recommendations for mission and ministry advanced in the report.

Members of the LARC Group for 2000 through 2002 included: Rev. Dennis Andersen (Lutheran), Rev. Dr. Phyllis Anderson (Lutheran), Rev. William Burnett (Episcopalian), Rev. Peter Chirico (Roman Catholic), Rev. Dr. Kenneth Christopherson (Lutheran), Rev. Patrick Clark (Roman Catholic), Sister Joyce Cox (Roman Catholic), Rev. Peter DeVeau (Episcopalian), Gail Jones (Episcopalian), Rev. Wray MacKay (Episcopalian), Martin Murphy (Roman Catholic), Dr. Rocky Piro (Lutheran), and Rev. Jeffery Russell (Lutheran).

Links to the full report and the brief summary are availabe at www.lutheransnw.org/committees/larc/default.asp.

Disasters All Around Us

Prayers and Support are Needed

Bridge Washed Out–After nearly five months without moisture, Railroad Creek valley at Holden Village received more than ten inches of rain in October, five inches in one storm on October 20.

The outcome of the rain was that a previously eroding bank upstream from the vehicle bridge gave way and an estimated thousand cubic yards of material slid into Railroad Creek. Holden's vehicle bridge, which connects the Village to the garage and mine, washed out.

Plans are being made to protect the covered bridge and the water main, to construct a temporary maintenance garage (help will be needed) and to repair or replace the vehicle bridge. Visit www.holdenvillage.org for photos and additional information.

Floods–The heavy rains on October 20 also affected four rivers in northwestern Washington. Along the Skagit River some 500 homes were evacuated when the river crested 8.2 feet above flood stage. To the west of Mount Vernon near Concrete, the river crested at 14.2 feet above flood stage. The night before, residents of low-lying areas near Concrete and Marblemount were evacuated.

Church World Service, Washington Association of Churches, the Washington Faith-Based Disaster Recovery Network and the Skagit County Christian Ministry Network are working together to bring the much needed support to the affected communities. (Rev. Laurie Johnson, Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor, is serving as treasurer to the Skagit County Christian Ministry Network.) Financial contributions can be made to Skagit Interfaith Flood Recovery, acct#311703961, at any Skagit State Bank; or mailed to Skagit State Bank, PO Box 285, Burlington, WA 98233.

California Fires–At least twenty people have been killed and 2,400 homes lost in the fires that have ravaged more than 650,000 acres. Many of the ELCA's 269 congregations in the Southwest California and Pacifica synods have been and will continue to be affected in this largest-ever disaster in the heavily-populated state. In addition, many people will need special ministry for a long time to come – the elderly, people with little means who have lost homes and jobs, people affected in Native American communities and others could lose hope and will need counseling, material and medical aid. Lutheran Disaster Relief is in California helping. You can read an update and download a bulletin insert at www.elca.org/dcs/disaster/california_fires.html

Bridges of Human Community

by Kathy Long, Synod Anti-Racism Committee

Bridges of Human Community was developed by Lutheran Human Relations Association (LHRA) to bring its mission into the life of congregations, the church at large and other communities.

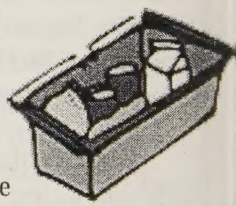
In a world of growing separation between people of different races, in society bombarded by stereotypes and negative images, in a culture filled with fear, ignorance and uncertainty in relating to persons who are different from oneself, we need to unmask racism and build and model community in new ways as God's people.

Bridges of Human Community is a scripturally based, interactive process designed to expand awareness of one's own cultural background; to deepen understanding of the reality of others; to examine the systems of oppression, particularly racism; and to develop the ability for sensitive and effective community healing and building across differences. Through scripture, stories, small group dialogue and interactive exercise, participants gain greater understanding of who they are, where they came from and how we are all a part of God's world and are each needed to build bridges between all peoples.

Bridges of Human Community is the 1 or 2 day workshop model and *Regarding Bridges: Needing, Building, Crossing* is it's six-session, small group study companion. For more informaiton contact me at keblonde@oz.net or by phone 425/497-9090.

Shoebox Appeal for Seafarers

by Anna Marie Klein, Synod Maritime Ministry Committee



As you can well imagine, the port situation due to *terrorism* has caused passports and visas to be essential for seafarers wishing to go ashore. There are armed guards protecting gangways. Passports and visas are expensive and not easily obtained for many seafarers.

The Synod's Maritime Ministry chaplains continue to visit ships and help in any way possible, providing Bibles and Jesus videos in many languages and dialects and shopping for necessities (toothpaste and shampoo). In some cases, chaplains provide cell phones for seafarers who need to contact their families.

The Christmas Season for seafarers is December through mid-January. There is a special need in 2003-2004 to share our Christian witness and love to the seafarers community this season– the impact will be worldwide. You can help share the love of Christ by sending a gift-filled shoebox (Please see the enclosed flyer in this newsletter for more details)

Sexuality Study Task Force Update

The Sexuality Study Task Force of the Northwest Washington Synod continues to meet monthly and work on plans to assist the members of the synod to participate in the ELCA *Journey Together Faithfully* study process.

As with all synod committees, the meetings of the task force are open for interested members of the synod to attend. Our next meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on the Monday, Dec. 15, at Bethany of the Northwest, 916 Pacific, Everett, Fourth Floor Conference Room. Future meetings will be listed on the synod calendar at www.lutheransnw.org/calendar.

The task force now has a public web page on the Synod web site with announcements and contact information: www.lutheransnw.org/committees/sstf/default.asp.

The task force also has a working web site to maintain a group email list, message archive and documents storage. The minutes of task force meetings are stored here and interested members of the synod can obtain access to the site by contacting Paul OldenKamp at Paul@OldenKamp.org.

Come to the Water

How do we nurture faith in someone new to the faith or the church? The catechumenate is a community-enlivening way to do this, using reflection on the lectionary, small groups, worship rites, and sponsors.

To learn how to implement the catechumenate in your congregation, join us for *Come to the Water,* a catechumenate training event sponsored by the Oregon Synod and Episcopal Diocese of Oregon scheduled for May 20 to 22, 2004, at Aldersgate Conference Center near Salem, Oregon. Dan Benedict, Worship Resources Director for the United Methodist Church, will be the keynote speaker.

Congregations interested in starting a catechumenate process or strengthening their existing process are encouraged to send a team of people to this event. Registration forms for the training should be available by February. For questions, contact Pastor Martha Maier at 360-574-9029 or maierm@comcast.net. To find out more about the catechumenate visit www.catechumenate.org.

King Solomon's Mind

by Len Devenere, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Bellevue

Holy Cross in Bellevue is planning a dramatic and entertaining presentation of the Old Testament book of *Ecclesiastes* delivered in the person of King Solomon. The presentation is called *King Solomon's Mind.*

The purpose of this presentation is to present God-inspired words from nearly 1000 years before Christ was born and let His message find its way into the hearts of those who hear it. The idea for this presentation was born out of efforts by the congregation's Evangelism Committee to create a non-confrontational way for congregation members to share their faith with their friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, etc. through *invitation;* and also to reach out with a message which seems very applicable to life today.

The script is word-for-word from the New King James translation of the book of Ecclesiastes. I have memorized the book and will be delivering it in the person of King Solomon.

King Solomon's Mind will be held at Holy Cross, 4315 129th Place S, Bellevue, at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4; at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7; and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb.8. A free-will offering will be taken. For more information about *King Solomon's Mind,* please visit http://home.wwdb.org/holycross/hcevents.htm.

Update From The Board Of Pensions

Change Your Health Plan Administrator–If you have Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Benefits and are going to make a health plan administrator election change, please do so by Dec. 15. Plan administrator election forms are available at www.elcabop.org/benefit_plans/health_benefits/ (select Plan administrator change)

Saving You Money–If your annual income tax is 20 percent (federal and state taxes combined), you can save $20 in taxes for every $100 you spend on medical and dependent care expenses. Learn how at www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/administrators/fsa.asp

Top 10 Prescription Drugs–See what prescription drugs ELCA members use most, their cost and learn how you can manage drug costs today at www.elcabop.org/benefit_plans/health_benefits (select Prescription drugs at left, and then Top 10 most used prescription drugs)

Changes to Medicare Supplement Plan–The ELCA Supplement to Medicare Benefits Plan is undergoing changes for 2004 and will include a deductible. For more information see www.elcabop.org/news_events/plan_changes/health (select ELCA Supplement to Medicare Benefits Plan)

Parish Nurses To Report

With the help of a $1000 WELCA grant, parish nurses and the University of Washington nursing faculty have produced a manual for congregations that focuses on substance abuse and child sexual abuse.

Project researchers are Andrea Kovalesky, RN, PhD, and Patricia Giurgevich, RN, EdD. The project included interviewing many parish nurses around their roles in addressing issues of abuse in congregations. Over 50 possible nursing activities were identified and prioritized.

Dr Kovalesky will report on this project at the meeting of the synod's domestic violence prevention committee at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at Lutheran Community Services, 401 Minor Ave N., Seattle.

You Are Invited—Women of the Synod

You are invited to attend
A Gathering and Convention of Women
of the Northwest Washington Synod
on January 16-17, 2004
at
Salem Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon

Stand With Africa: A Campaign of Hope

Keynote Speakers: The Reverend David Wold, former Bishop of the Southwestern Washington Synod, and Mrs. Elizabeth Wold

Bible Study Leader: The Rev. Janice Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop, Northwest Washington Synod

Music and Worship Leader: Cheryl Kulas and a special presentation by the African Gospel Acappella, singers from Liberia

The Gathering will include music, worship, Bible study, interest groups, election of officers and board members and fellowship. Registration is $35 (includes Friday dinner and Saturday lunch). Hotel cost is $74 per room (sleeps as many as 4). Please make your own reservation with the hotel at 360-428-5678 by Jan. 2, 2004. On Friday the Gathering begins with registration and a reception from 4 to 6 p.m.; dinner from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the opening of convention at 8 p.m. The Gathering will end with a closing worship service around 3p.m. on Saturday. For registration and information please contact Yvonne Deacon, Registrar, 19228 5th Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98148-2124; telephone 206-878-8523

Advocacy Ministry

By Rev. Paul B. Benz, Director, Lutheran Public Policy Office

Greetings to you in these reflective and festive seasons of Advent and Christmas. From the Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO) and the Advisory Council we send our year end greeting to each of you. We are thankful for the hope that we all have in *the Word become flesh,* for without that kind of a God we are truly lost.

God in human form became one of us showing us the way and modeling for us the unconditional love of God and neighbor, while at the same time engaging the powers of his day and pleading the cause of the poor and vulnerable. The advocacy ministry of the ELCA is certainly about pleading the cause of our neighbor in need and speaking the truth to the powers/decision makers of our day.

On January 12, 2004, the Washington State legislature will convene. I encourage you to pray regularly for your elected officials in your locale, this state and country. Beginning on Sunday, January 11 and ending on March 12, I encourage every congregation to include prayers for the state legislators in the district(s) represented in each congregation. I also encourage you to be an advocate for *the least of these* in our state by telling the governor and your three state legislators **no more cuts to the poor and vulnerable!** Too many rae hungry (more than 104,000 households in our state, the 5th highest in the country). Too many are without health care (648,180 men, women and children). Too many households are only one paycheck away from being homeless!

How can you be involved?

Invite your legislators (state or congressional representative) to your church for a forum on hunger/poverty, health care and housing. Invite neighboring churches to be the planners for this event. The advocacy team at University in Seattle recently did this and it was a success.

Two other important ways to be involved to exercise the Church's public voice in the public arena is by attending one or both of the following legislative briefings: Thursday, Jan. 29 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Seattle, location TBA; and Lutheran Advocacy Day in Olympia on Thursday, Feb. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., location TBA.

This Legislative Session LPPO will focus on the following: reduce Washington's high hunger rate; assure that the federal CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) monies be used for that purpose; examine and review tax exemptions; and add clergy to the list of professions that are to be mandatory reporters of child abuse.

Phone: 206-694-5772
Email:pbenz@lcsnw.org

Gathering For Transformational Leaders

The Joy Leadership Conference, *The Ancient Future Church,* will be held February 9 through 12, 2004, at Community Church of Joy in Glendale, AZ.

And, if you don't think you can afford attending, the conference will be **simulcast** at St. Matthew's in Renton.

By attending the simulcast, not only will you have the opportunity to hear the general sessions, worship and featured workshops but on-site breakout workshops will be held. (Please visit www.joylead.org and click on *10 simulcast locations via satellite* for workshops unique to the simulcast at St. Matthew's.)

This gathering connects ELCA leaders who are: passionate about their call, mission led and mission driven and who reach out to seekers. Key note speaker is Walt Kallestad, enior pastor of Community Church of Joy, who will share the story of Joy and its journey from tradition to mission. Other speakers include Len Sweet, historian and futurist and Tim Wright, strategic thinker.

Cost: $169 if postmarked by Jan 9, 2004; $199 if postmarked after Jan 9, 2004. Cost to attend the simulcast regional event is the same as attending the conference in Glendale.

For registration information visit www.joylead.org or telephone 1-877-569-5323.

Partners For Nurture

The annual *Partners for Nurture* teacher training event will be held on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2004 on the Trinity Lutheran College campus. Registration begins at 8 am. The event includes lunch, snacks and a choice of 40 workshops. Childcare is available. A B&B option is also available for those who need to arrive the night before. The event will conclude at 4:30 pm.

The keynote address will be given by Rev. John LaMunyon, pastor of Sammamish Lutheran Church, speaking on the theme *Partnership: Proclaiming the Faith.* Once again, Rev. Lowell Stime, Academic Dean at Trinity Lutheran College will offer a *Walk thru the New Testament.*

Registration materials were mailed to each congregation in the Synod. Want more information? Email Sue Houglum at houglum@tlc.edu or call 425-961-5532.

JUST 4 YOUTH!

Justabouteverythingpages is on-line again this year! Check it out on the Region 1 youth and family web site at www.elcaregion1.org/youth.html

Focus on Youth & Family Ministry Event

The event will be held February 27-28, 2004, at Trinity Lutheran College, Issaquah. The theme this year is:

Is This Any Way to Live?
Practicing Our Faith, Living Abundantly

This year's focus topic is on introducing faith practices into a congregation's youth ministry. The event is designed as an opportunity for high school youth and adults to experience faith practices, integrating our Christian faith with the activities of our daily life.

Susan Briehl, a speaker, author, and pastor, will be the featured presenter. She works as an associate of the Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith, an initiative funded by the Lilly Foundation. Susan and her daughters, Mary Emily and Magdalena (who will also lead the event), together wrote the chapters on "The Story" and "Food" in *Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens,* which serves as the basis for this year's Focus on Youth & Family Ministry event. Participants will each receive a copy of the book.

We encourage congregations to send a team of 1-3 adults and 1-3 high school youth.

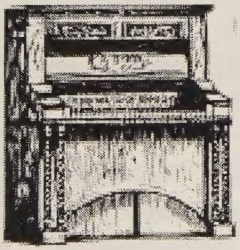
FOYM is designed to assist congregations in developing children, youth, and family ministries and is hosted annually by ELCA Region 1 and the Trinity Lutheran College Children, Youth & Family Center.

The program fee is $40 per person (not including lodging or meals). For more information, contact Linda Zinter, FOYM Registrar, at 424-961-5544 or cyfcenter@tlc.edu.

Telephone System Available

Bethlehem in Marysville has a Panasonic Digital Business Telephone System that they would like t sell. This system is capable of handling six incoming lines and serves up to sixteen extensions (included). The system is available to any congregation or agency . Please contact Bethlehem at 360-659-2022 or email at pastorjack@bethlehemlutheran.com.

Church Organ For Sale



Church Organ For Sale–Baldwin Model 520 organ with separate speaker system (Baldwin Model H5 Tone Cabinet, 650 Watts). Excellent organ for small to medium size church. Organ is in very good condition (must see and try). Contact Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 615 Highland Drive, Arlington; telephone 360-435-8921 or email carl.gabrielson@ecunet.org.

Executive Director

Camp Lutherwood invites applications and nominations for the position of Executive Director. The Director reports to the Board of Directors and is responsible for the leadership and administration of the camp and must work effectively with the Lutheran church community and other organizations to raise the awareness of the camp. A major focus of this position is developing short and long term funding sources. The Executive Director position is a permanent position. Salary Range: $40,000 to $60,000 annually. Application packet to include cover letter, resume, and at least three professional and two personal references. Selected candidates to be interviewed on-site at Camp Lutherwood in November. Application packet must be received by November 30, 2003, at: Lutherwood Search Committee, Attn. Sue Giaimo, 5547 171 Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006; For more information contact Sue Giaimo, Chair of Executive Director Search Committee, at sgiaimo@comcast.net.

News and Notes

- **The Lutheran Church in the San Juans** is contributing $2,000 from congregational savings through Lutheran World Relief to the *All Our Children* project. This project seeks to raise one million dollars for life-saving medicines and medical supplies needed in Iraq. More information about this project can be found at www.lwr.org.
- The ELCA awarded $126,254 in scholarships to provide full tuition for 16 women and men attending ELCA seminaries. One of the recipients is **Karena (Kari) Heather Reiten,** member of Gift of Grace in Seattle, who is a student at PLTS.
- Congratualtions to **Rev. Eileen Hanson** who was ordained on September 14 at Trinity in Lynnwood and who was installed as pastor on October 19 at St. Stephen's in Shoreline.
- Congratulations to **Rev. Michael Nel** who was installed on October 31 at Gethsemane in Seattle as the new Executive Director for Consulation to Clergy.
- The new study guide for **Journey Together Faithfully, Part Two: The Church and Homosexuality** was mailed to all congregations in early September. You can also review and/or download the document at www.elca.org/faithfuljourney/ or you can order copies from Augsburg Press at 1-800-328-4648. Cost $1.50 each. A response form is located at the back of the study booklet. Participating in this study and sending in the response form is the best way to have your voice heard. Responses need to be received by the ELCA on or before November 1, 2004.
- Because of "broad, often intense critique," the **Rev. Mark S. Hanson,** presiding bishop of the ELCA, changed course Oct. 18 and **withdrew a proposed restructuring plan for the ELCA churchwide organization.** Hanson said he will ask the council, which meets Nov. 13-16 in Charlotte, N.C., to create a process and timetable to develop a new design proposal for the churchwide organization. The constitutional implications of any new proposal could be considered by the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. (The full October 22 news release can be found at www.elca.org, click on News and Events.)
- The Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO) advisory council reps for this synod are: **Rev. Carol Jensen** (St. John United in Seattle) and **Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda** (University in Seattle), **Stacy Kitahata** (Region 1), and **Juan Martinez** (Lutheran Community Services).

Within Our Family

To Keep in Our Prayers...

† **For the daughter of Rev. Paul and Karen Gabrielsen (ret.).** Ginger and her family live in San Diego and their home was in the path of one of the California fires. Their home miraculously survived.

† **For Rev. Paul and Sue Hermansen.** Sue's mother, Connie Carlson, recently passed away. Blessings to her memory. Rev. Paul is pastor at Mount Si in North Bend.

† For **Robert Omland, father of Bishop Rich Omland,** had emergency heart surgery in October. He received two bypasses and a valve repair. He is recovering well. Bishop Omland is bishop of the Montana Synod.

† **Rev. Tim Weber, St. Andrew's in Bellevue,** as he recovers at home after a brief hospital stay with an aortal aneurysm. You can send email messages to him at timwebertt@aol.com.

† For **Rev. Wally Johnson (ret.)** who continues to heal from surgery.

† **John Corkran,** Synod Council member, as he waits for the infection to heal and for his second hip surgery.

† **Arne Pietz, son of Rev. Lothar Pietz** (on our synod roster, currently serving an interim at Immanuel, Boise). Arne is experiencing life-threatening complications following surgery.

† **Rev. James Ericksen (ret.)** who has been ill.

† **Rev. Paul Wuest** who has had a recurrence of cancer and is undergoing treatment at this time. Cards may be sent to: 12718 SE 254th Ct.; Kent, WA 98031; prwuest@comcast.net.

† **Phil Young, husband of Linda Albert Young.** He underwent a bone marrow transplant in early September and is now home recuperating.

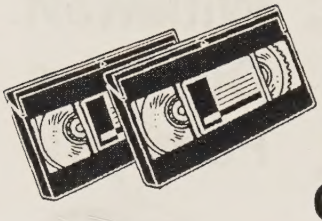
† **Rev. Eric Ranum** as he heals from radiation treatments for his brain tumor. Updates are posted at www.Trinitylutheran-cda.org.

† **Rev. Robert Moylan (ret.)** as he deals with progressive muscular dystrophy.

† **Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.)** as he learns to do new things.

† At the regular **Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting,** we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for the members of Hope Lutheran Church in Seattle who held a final celebration and worship service on November 23. We pray for the members of Grace Chinese as they continue to use the church for their ministry. We pray for the health and healing of those we mention in our hearts. We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in our companion synods in Ethiopia and Russia. We pray for the pastors, churches and members of the Southwestern Texas Synod, as we are partnered with them by Churchwide. We pray for peace.

Within Our Family depends upon you-not only for prayers, but also your prayer requests. Please contact the Synod office with any additions to this column.



New In The Resource Center

Stewart and Alice Govig were long bewildered by the bizarre behavior of their son, who was eventually diagnosed with schizophrenia. A religion professor at Pacific Lutheran University, Dr. Govig realized that many Christians and their congregations do not know how to deal with mental illness, still among the most stigmatized afflictions.

Stranger in Our Midst: The Church and People with Mental Illness shares the story of their growing understanding of mental illness as a brain disease. Learn to accept their son and his condition is the centerpiece of this video. The video also features Dr. Jarrett Richardson, a Mayo Clinic psychiatrist, who points out that one in five families experience mental illness. This video, along with a study guide, is designed to awaken Christians to the silent suffering in their midst, and to equip them with understanding about how they can support all those who are affected. The video is 18 minutes in length. V-1338.

A Place to Come Back To shows the church as the caring and committed home-community where those dealing with crisis are always welcome. It is 20 minutes in length. V-1337.

To reserve videos, call the Region 1 Resource Center at 206-624-0093, Ext. 100.

Soundings

News and information for pastors, associates in ministry, lay leaders and ecumenical friends of

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